

FORTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.
 First Session.
 Wednesday, January 9, 1856.
 SENATE.
 Numerous memorials were presented, com-
 prising of the decisions of the Naval Board

in question came from George A. Stephens, a master in the navy, who complained of injustice done him by the Naval Board, and asked redress in the premises as Congress had pleased to grant.

Mr. Hale then denounced the law as unconstitutional, and went into a statement of its action in dismissing and retiring officers of high grade, while it was specially careful of the subordinate members of the service; from which he thought it might be inferred, with any extraordinary stretch of imagination, that the longer officers remained in service, the worthless they became. He pronounced the whole law as wrong in its inception, wrong

principle, and infinitely worse in its execution—that it was not fit to be on the statute-book, and ought to be obliterated. He said, if officers that had been made victims were left before the country, he would pledge his name on the issue that they were as fully compensated for their stations as any that were left—and might go further, and say, a little more so. He expressed the opinion, that if the law were brought before the Supreme Court, it would be declared null and void. He concluded by giving notice that he would on some future occasion bring in a bill to repeal that law.

Mr. Toombs suggested that, as all the memorials hitherto presented had been referred to

Committee on Naval Affairs, the memorial question had better have the same reference. His opinion, to send one to the Committee on Judiciary, and others to the Naval Committee, would be unnecessarily dividing labor.

Mr. Hale's object was to have a legal opinion from the Committee on the Judiciary; but he would agree to its going to the Naval Committee, with instructions to report upon the constitutionality of the law of the last session in the subject.

Mr. Adams suggested an amendment, to the effect "that the committee also report whether the action of the Naval Board is not void for want of notice to the persons relieved."

Mr. Benjamin defended the law with much earnestness and great zeal, contending that it had been the means of infusing new life and vigor into the navy; and went on to quote the testimony of the Board acted within its jurisdiction and meaning.

Mr. Hale then moved to lay the memorial of Mr. Stephens on the table for the present; and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, then called up the resolution submitted by him on the 19th December, calling on the Secretary of the Navy to lay the proceedings upon which the Naval Board acted.

Mr. Jones then addressed the Senate at some

denounced the action of the Board in measured terms.

Mr. Mallory defended the action of the Board with no less zeal; and the discussion was concluded, Messrs. Seward, Brodhead, Bell of Tennessee, Mason, Toucey, and others, participating, when the subject was passed over informally.

In motion by Mr. Clayton,
resolved, That the President be requested, to be compatible with the public interests, to communicate to the Senate a copy of the letter of Lord John Russell to Mr. Crampton, dated May 19, 1853, in which the British Government declared that "the United States could not

ty to the treaty of the 19th April, 1850, not to assume any sovereignty, direct or indirect, in Central America."

The Senate then went into Executive session, after some time spent therein, adjourned fondly.

HOUSE.—(in continuation.)

Mr. Sneed, of Tennessee, at half past ten o'clock, moved that the House adjourn; which motion was not agreed to—yeas 36, nays 159.

Mr. Sneed, prefacing his motion with a few remarks, moved that the Hon. James L. Orr, of South Carolina, be requested to preside as temporary Chairman, until a Speaker shall have been elected.

Mr. Colfax, of Indiana, moved, as a substitute for the resolution of Mr. Sned, that Messrs. McKim, Richardson, and Fuller, be invited to attend temporarily as Chairmen of this House, they may mutually agree, until a Speaker is elected.

Mr. Washburn, of Maine, moved that the whole subject be laid on the table.

Mr. Sned then withdrew his motion.

Mr. Paine, of North Carolina, submitted a resolution providing "that until Saturday next, twelve o'clock, no motion to adjourn or take recess shall be in order, unless a Speaker shall have at that time been elected." [Cries of "that's all right," "I'll support it," etc.]

Mr. Sneed then renewed his resolution, and its adoption demanded the previous question. Mr. Washburn, of Maine, moved that it be on the table; which motion was disagreed to—yeas 100, nays 101. Mr. Etheridge, of Tennessee, at ten minutes to 12 o'clock, moved that the House adjourn; which motion was negatived.

On the previous question was then seconded, on the House refused to order the main question—yeas 92, nays 106.

The resolution accordingly lies over until tomorrow.

Mr. Etheridge again moved that the House adjourn; which motion was negatived—yeas 86.

Mr. Paine, of North Carolina, then renewed resolution, "that until Saturday next, at 12 o'clock P. M., no motion to adjourn or to take recess shall be in order, unless a Speaker shall declare that time be elected," and on its adoption demanded the previous question.

Mr. Grow, of Pennsylvania, moved that the

tion to be laid on the table.

Mr. Mcullen, of Virginia, at 1 o'clock A. M. moved that the House adjourn; which motion did not prevail.

The yeas and nays were then demanded, and ordered, on the motion of Mr. Grow.

Mr. Carlie, of Virginia, moved that the House adjourn. It was now past one o'clock, and he said appeal to the members who had witnessed the proceedings of the last nine or ten hours say what good had resulted of this night session.

The motion was disagreed to.

The question recurring on the motion to lay on the table the resolution of Mr. Paine, it was

and decided in the affirmative—yeas 99, nays 90.

Mr. Millward, of Pennsylvania, moved that the House adjourn; which motion was disagreed to.

Mr. M. then moved, that when the House adjourns, it adjourn to meet on Friday next; which motion was also disagreed to.

Mr. Paine, of North Carolina, submitted the following resolution, which he supported by a number of remarks:

Resolved, That the Hon. Wm. R. Smith, of Alabama, be chosen to preside as temporary chairman of this House until a Speaker be elected.

The question being taken, the resolution was voted—yeas 22, nays 151.

Mr. Kelly, of New York, by the consent of the House, submitted a few remarks, denying that the Catholic religion is dangerous to the institutions of the country.

The House, at a quarter past 3 o'clock A. M., resumed the business of voting for Speaker, when the one hundred and fifth ballot was had, with the following result:

Mr. Banks, of Massachusetts	-	88
Mr. Richardson, of Illinois	-	63
Mr. Fuller, of Pennsylvania	-	28
Mr. Pennington, of New Jersey	-	6
Scattering	-	3

	188
There having been no election—	
The one hundred and sixth ballot was bad,	
it resulted as follows:	
Mr. Banks, of Massachusetts	88
Mr. Richardson, of Illinois	62
Mr. Fuller, of Pennsylvania	27
Mr. Pennington, of New Jersey	6
Scattering	4

[illegible]

WASHINGTON, D. C.

A CIRCULAR

TO THE

FRIENDS OF THE REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT

Throughout the United States.

REPUBLICAN ROOMS,

Washington, D. C., Jan. 17, 1856.

DEAR SIR: The undersigned have been appointed a Committee, on the part of the Association whose Declaration, Platform, and Constitution, accompany this, to address a circular letter to our Republican friends, urging upon their attention the importance of immediate and thorough organization of Clubs or Associations, somewhat similar to our own, in every city, town, and village, in the Union.

The power and influence of these organizations cannot be over-estimated by the friends of Freedom. They are all-important to carry on a political campaign, and it will be a matter of impossibility to compete with those arrayed against us in the approaching contest, without them. They are the most powerful and only efficient means for bringing out, concentrating, and making known, our true strength. They will serve to rally the people, inspire them with confidence and enthusiasm, and furnish the information necessary to expose and fairly meet the sophistry of pro-slavery demagogues. We have seen the power of these Associations fully manifested in recent elections. Let the friends of Freedom learn wisdom, even from their enemies. We go into the contest as a *new and untried party*, opposing old and well-organized parties, sustained and backed by Government patronage, or bound together by old party ties. We must compel these parties to show where they stand on the only great issue now before the country—Slavery or Freedom. We must force them to array themselves on one side or the other of this question, and consider every man who is not openly and avowedly on the side of Freedom, as against it. How, then, is this to be done, unless the friends of Freedom are themselves united? And how can they be better and more efficiently united than by these organizations?

ERTY, and HAPPINESS, to all men: and therefore,

SECOND. There should be neither Slavery nor involuntary servitude, except for the punishment of crime, in any of the Territories of the United States.

THIRD. The People are the rightful source of all political power; and all officers should, as far as practicable, be chosen by a direct vote of the People.

FOURTH. Candidates for political offices should be men of undoubted integrity and sobriety, and pledged to support the principles of this Platform by all lawful and constitutional means.

CONSTITUTION.

ART. I. Any person may become a member of this Association, on subscribing to its Platform and Constitution.

ART. II. The officers of this Association shall be a President, Vice Presidents, three Directors, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Corresponding Secretary, who shall serve until such day as the Association shall appoint as the time for the annual meeting; then and thereafter, the officers shall be elected annually.

ART. III. The three Directors, with the President, Secretaries, and Treasurer, shall constitute a Committee to disburse such funds as may be placed at their disposal by the Association, and to perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned them.

ART. IV. The funds of the Association shall be devoted exclusively to the payment of the necessary contingent expenses of the same, for the purchase and circulation of important documents and information, and in the use of such means as may have a tendency to advance the principles laid down in our Platform.

ART. V. In order to secure concert of action, the more direct interchange of intelligence, and general co-operation throughout the country, we invite the formation of similar Associations in every State, county, city, or village, in the Union, whose officers shall be *ex officio* members of this Association, and who are requested to report to this Association the names of their officers and number of members, for general information of the whole.

ART. VI. This Association may at any time

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